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Identical letters dated 17 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that certain parts of Lebanon that border Syria have become havens for Al-Qaida and Muslim Brotherhood terrorists who are endangering the security of Syria and its citizens and striving to undermine the Special Envoy's six-point plan. Following is some substantiated information regarding the provision of weapons to terrorist groups in Syria and the smuggling of terrorists across the Lebanese-Syrian border:

I. Several arms and equipment depots have been established in certain parts of Lebanon that border Syria. Arms and equipment are brought into Lebanese territory illegally, either by sea or, in some cases, by air aboard the aircraft of certain States, under the pretext that they are humanitarian supplies for displaced Syrians in Lebanon, and then smuggled into Syria. In that connection, we would like to note that, on 13 March 2012, an unidentified warship anchored off the Juniyah area of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Small boats then transported the weapons that were on board the ship to land with a view to transferring them to Syria. Other vessels loaded with weapons docked at Aquamarina near Juniyah. Their cargo was unloaded and the weapons that were on board, which were to be smuggled into Syria, were taken to Akkar and then Wadi Khalid for that purpose. In that connection, the competent Lebanese authorities have uncovered several attempts to smuggle weapons into Syria. Following is information regarding some of those attempts

1. On 24 March 2012, Lebanese Army intelligence raided the hideouts of armed gangs in Akrum, Minyah and Rajm Hussein and arrested 38 terrorists of various nationalities, who confessed that they were preparing to enter Syrian territory illegally with a view to participating in the criminal operations being carried out by armed terrorist groups in Syrian territory. The persons arrested are Muhammad Shahadah (Lebanese), Rabi' Alman (Lebanese), Muhammad bin Hamud al-Dawsari (Qatari), Sultan Azizi (Saudi Arabian), Ahmad al-Duwayri (Saudi Arabian), Jasim al-Usayri (Saudi Arabian), Mamduh al-Usayri (Saudi Arabian), Fahad Abdulaziz (Saudi Arabian), Dabbah Khanjar (Libyan), Uthman al-Dakwiri (Libyan), Sa'dallah al-Husayni (Libyan), Ahmad Shikhu (Syrian), Sakin al-Janah Muhammad (Libyan), Darrar al-Mahmud (Syrian), Yusuf al-Khalid (Egyptian), Uthman al-Khalid (Egyptian), Khalid al-Musilmani (Lebanese), Fu'ad al-Musilmani (Lebanese), Abdullah Katub (Syrian), Mahir al-Zu'bi (Syrian), Khalid al-Jabili (Libyan), Abdulhamid Uthman (Egyptian), Saffah Walid (Egyptian), Khalid Radi (Libyan),

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Muhammad al-Ali (Lebanese), Khalid Ghannam (Egyptian), As'ad Barburi (Libyan), Tawfiq al-Dali (Egyptian), Khaldun al-Jabiri (Libyan), Sa'dun al-Jabiri (Libyan), Ahmad Dahir (Lebanese), Rabi' al-Muhammad (Lebanese), Sa'ir Kafruni (Syrian), Mu'ammar Muhammad al-Khaliq (Libyan), Muhammad Sanjar (Egyptian), Zakariya Shawqi (Egyptian), Ahmad Muhammad (Egyptian) and Adil Dib (Syrian). The competent Lebanese authorities also seized various weapons, including 26 automatic rifles, 12 rocket-propelled grenades, 20 Austrian military pistols, 20 Thuraya satellite phones, 4 Alpha phone cards and 40 rockets.

2. On 27 March 2012, Lebanese Army intelligence arrested six Syrian nationals and four Lebanese nationals in the Mashari' al-Qa' area in Wadi Khalid as they were attempting to smuggle arms and ammunition into Syrian territory. The competent Lebanese authorities discovered the following weapons in the possession of the persons arrested: two 28-mm mortars, one DShK (Dushka) machine-gun, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, eight crates of rocket-propelled grenades, eight crates of hand grenades, 15 boxes of miscellaneous ammunition, 15 automatic rifles and five crates of mortars.

3. On 28 March 2012, the competent Lebanese authorities arrested Iskandar Iskandar after he had robbed an arms and ammunition depot in Jabal Muhsin, Tripoli, with the intention smuggling the stolen items to Syria.

4. On 29 March 2012, the Lebanese Army seized three vehicles that were transporting Walid Muhammad al-Muhammadiyah (mother's name Rif'at Hamud; born in 1964 in Wadi Khalid), Khalid Muhammad al-Muhammadiyah (mother's name Rif'at Hamud; born in 1965), Yusuf Hussein al-Dandashi (mother's name Fatimah; born in 1964 in Mashta Hasan), Ali Khalid Khalifah (born in 1961 in Wadi Khalid), Khalid Ahmad al-Dandashi (mother's name Nuha; born in 1959 in Wadi al-Har) and Muhammad Ahmad Khalifah (mother's name Fatum; born in 1971 in Wadi Khalid). The competent Lebanese authorities seized 10 automatic rifles, 11 boxes of ammunition and eight crates of rocket-propelled grenades that were in the possession of the men arrested. They confessed during interrogation that they had transferred the weapons to the above-mentioned area with a view to smuggling them into Syria.

5. On 30 March 2012, a car belonging to George Elias Faghali was stopped at the Lebanese Army checkpoint in Madfun, Batrun. The car was transporting Elia Abdullah al-Khuri, George Joseph Antun and Sami Joseph Khuri. Four M16 rifles and eight automatic rifles, along with ammunition for those weapons, were discovered inside the car. The above-mentioned persons confessed that the weapons were meant to be smuggled into Syria.

6. In early April 2012, a patrol of the Lebanese second border guard corps arrested a number of persons, both Lebanese and Syrian, in the place known as Mashari' al-Qa', Lebanon, namely: Abdulkarim Muhammad Rayid (mother's name: Khadijah; born in Arsal in 1968, a Lebanese national); Ali Mahmud Izzuddin (mother's name: Turkiyah Hamdan; born in Arsal in 1981, a Lebanese national); Ibrahim Muhammad Izzuddin (mother's name: Fatumah Za'rur; born in Arsal in 1984, a Lebanese national); Ibrahim Ahmad Rayid (mother's name: Darrah; born in Arsal in 1983, a Lebanese national); Muhiyuddin Muhammad al-Zuhuri (mother's name: Nuzhah Rahmah; born in Qusayr in 1985, a Syrian national); Bilal Muhammad Dib al-Masri, (mother's name: Nuriyah Arabi; born in Bab Amr in 1987, a Syrian national); Muhammad Ahmad al-As'ad, (mother's name: Fatum; born in Homs in 1949, a Syrian national); Yusuf Muhammad Sa'id (born in Bab

Durayb in 1989, a Syrian national); and Hussein Hamid Hamad (mother's name: Uqud; born in Fawa'ira, a Syrian national). The Lebanese authorities also seized a white Hyundai pickup truck, licence plate No. M358962, and a blue Toyota van, licence plate No. M222426. Both vehicles were loaded with weapons that were to be smuggled into Syria, namely, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, two rifles, one FAL rifle, one .49-calibre rifle, three 120-mm mortar shells, three 81-mm mortar shells, one DShK (Dushka) machine-gun, one 120-mm mortar base, 65 mortar shells with 72 charges, and 84 rounds of 7 mm revolver ammunition.

7. On 22 April 2012, at the Syrian-Lebanese border-crossing point in the Judaydah region, during the search of a Lebanese vehicle, licence plate No. 118893, coming from Lebanon to Syria, driven by Nidal Tarad Shuman (born in Suwayri in 1977, a Lebanese national), accompanied by Jamil al-Sadiq bin Hasan (born in Idlib in 1954, a Syrian national), a cache inside the vehicle was discovered to contain a rocket-propelled grenade, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, 53 remote detonators and a number of military revolvers and rounds of ammunition.

8. On 27 April 2012, the competent Lebanese authorities seized a vessel named *Lutfallah 2* coming from the Libyan port of Misrata to Lebanon, laden with three containers found to contain a very large quantity of lethal weapons, miscellaneous ordnance and sophisticated communications equipment. Preliminary information indicates that the weapons were to be smuggled into Syrian territory for the benefit of the terrorist groups.

II. Charity centres run by Salafist groups and the Future movement in regions of Lebanon situated on the Syrian border have been converted into places for receiving and sheltering Syrian and other terrorist elements belonging to Al-Qaida and the Muslim Brotherhood who, operating from Lebanese territory, carry out their criminal activities in Syria, then flee back to those centres. Their wounded are treated under fictitious names in hospitals and dispensaries belonging to those groups, with financing by States such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

III. In the Qalamun area of Tripoli, Lebanon, there are an estimated 50 terrorists under the command of Khalid al-Tanak, Khalid Hamzah and Zakariya Ghalib al-Khuli, who hold false identity cards bearing the emblem of the United Nations which they use to pass through Lebanese Army checkpoints while carrying various weapons. They set out to commit acts of sabotage against Syria from Tripoli to the town of Safirah in Jurud al-Dinniyah, where they are received by members of Islamic extremist groups in order to facilitate their travel to Akrum in the Akkar Plain and from there to Wadi Khalid in order to enter Syrian territory for the purpose of carrying out terrorist acts.

IV. There are some reports that Syrian army defector Colonel Riad al-As'ad recently arrived in Lebanon to prepare for the creation of a Syrian buffer zone, operating from Lebanese territory.

Finally, we affirm that the continuation of operations of smuggling weapons and terrorists across the border into Syria with the support, financing and cover of certain Arab, regional and other States, without any calling to account, not only constitute a violation of every international law and customary practice, first and foremost the Charter of the United Nations, but are also in total contradiction with the plan of the United Nations Special Envoy to Syria, Mr. Kofi Annan, inasmuch as the direct and intentional participation in the destabilization of Syria threatens the

stability of the region as a whole. We therefore trust that you will take all necessary measures, in keeping with the responsibilities entrusted to you, to deal with this extremely grave issue, putting an end to the above-mentioned operations and calling to account the parties responsible for them, including the States offering the arms or financing and facilitating the smuggling of weapons and terrorists into Syria.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative